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Substitute Methods in Place of War

If a person refuses because of principle to take part in war, is he accepting security at the price of some one else's sacrifice?

How can public opinion be released for a more flexible response in emergencies?

Would a world court need the backing of military and naval power to function effectively?

Is a general strike to prevent war a Christian use of force?

Does the Non-Co-operation movement in India represent an expression in harmony with Jesus' principles?

Is international reconciliation on the basis of the present order a hopeful method of procedure? Why, or why not?

THE FOLLOWING little parable, "A Note From Noodleland," is from the pen of the former Assistant Secretary of Labor, Louis F. Post. We ran across it in *The Christian Century*. It runs:

Once in Noodleland the upward-looking natives resolved to have a temple built, towering toward the sky.

So they sent for an architect, who made them a thrilling picture of the kind of temple they thought they wanted. It pleased them to the tingle of a finger-tip, and they hired him to put the job through.

After a few days, seeing no signs above the hilltop of the temple for which their souls craved, they went in a body to the chosen site across the hill to see how the work might be going on. There they found their architect hard at work directing the digging of a great hole in the ground.

"What are you doing?" their spokesman asked.

"Building your splendid temple," the architect replied.

"But you are building it in the wrong direction," the spokesman explained. "Our temple was to tower toward the sky."

"It is for a firm foundation that I am digging down," said the architect.

"Foundation nothing!" the crowd shouted in chorus. "We didn't order a foundation. We ordered a temple."

Then they denounced the treacherous architect to his face and mobbed him.

THE EVENTS of this month in international affairs should convince the most skeptical that the peace forces of the world are rapidly regaining their feet. In Luxembourg the International Conference of Peace Societies has been in session, on August 10, 11, and 12. It is the first gathering of representatives of these societies since the outbreak of war. A week later the sessions of the Interparliamentary Union began in Stockholm, running from August 16 to August 19. Again, this is the first gathering since the outbreak of the war. And while these consistent workers in the cause of peace and understanding foregather, as in the pre-war days, the great forces, arising from the people everywhere and demanding peaceful organization of the world, bring about the disarmament conference.

TO THE PEACE SOCIETIES

By SENATOR HENRI LA FONTAINE, of Belgium, President of the International Peace Bureau

(A Translation)

IN RESPONSE to the demand expressed by a large number of those who wish, as we do, that the world may orient itself again and turn toward an era free of violence, we have decided to call once more a universal peace congress. We are told that solemn and far-reaching declarations are expected from those who advanced without ceasing, even before the war, the solutions which diplomats have consented to envisage and to realize partially and imperfectly.

It is certain that the disillusioned people are taking refuge behind their new frontiers in attitudes of defiance and fear. Above all, criminal voices raise themselves, calling to arms and inciting governments to accumulate instruments of murder for battles which they assure them are at hand. It is with a woeful resignation that men proclaim war to be a perpetual institution, and some do not hesitate to accept the blasphemy that it is a divine institution. And so the increase of armaments has begun, more crushing and more enervating than ever.

In the hour when all humanity is crushed by the disastrous consequences of the greatest of wars, certain politicians, who at this moment lead the peoples on toward massacre, have repeated, to the point of satiety, that this ought to be the last war, the war to end war. In the hour when the productivity of fields and factories ought to be increased to the maximum, they keep in the camps and in the barracks millions of workers, swallowing up billions in profitless expense, leading to figures which will amount to millions of billions, all for the purpose of creating corpses and ruins.

From many conversations it is recognized and affirmed that the outstanding need is to stop men in this foolishness. But only a few have the civic courage to prepare themselves to speak the truth and to say to the suffering crowds that they are hastening toward the most shocking of suicides. Only a few have an international equal to their national civic courage.

It is the duty of those who consider themselves citizens of the world, members of the society of nations, to spread the liberal spirit, to express unequivocally their conviction in a possible future where constraint will be the servant of right. This cry ought to be loud enough to be heard to the uttermost parts of the earth, and, above all, to penetrate the ears of the impenitent deaf, and the ears of those worse than deaf, who do not wish to hear, because the renown for which they are eager is made possible, wholly or in part, by conflicts which serve as spring-boards or pedestals for them, or because of the fructifying stipends coming to them copiously from the manufacture of war implements more and more enormous by technicians, incited by the colossal profits which come to them because of their infernal inventions. This cry ought to end in a tumult of other cries surging from the masses of the people—cries that would overcome the rumors of the subsidized pamphleteers in an international oligarchy athirst for glory and gold.

It is of importance that an active and energetic effort should be made by those who sense the tragedy of the hour, and who would that a change be realized in the mentality and in the will of the multitudes.

The Assembly of the League of Nations is going to meet again in a few weeks. Others already, with a traditional prudence, have formulated suggestions for reforms—suggestions which have only a subordinate and superficial significance. It will be necessary to envisage decisive and profound transformations, which shall make of the League of Nations not a trust of nations, but a community of peoples.

We are hastening, therefore, to invite all those who understand that they have a sacred duty to accomplish not to hesitate, but to hasten in as large numbers as possible to attend the meetings to be held in Luxembourg on the eve of the second session of the International Parliament.

THE WORK OF THE INTER AMERICAN HIGH COMMISSION

By EDWIN L. HARDING

SINCE 1889 there have been several conferences of American States, their general object being the promotion of better relations between the countries of North, Central, Caribbean, and South America. These conferences went into many questions vitally affecting the relationships between the American Republics, and brought forth some concrete, constructive suggestions calculated to solve them. However, not much immediate good came from them, because there was no organized body to get behind their recommendations and see that they were carried out—they simply met, adopted resolutions, and adjourned—little was done toward carrying out their recommendations.

Prior to the outbreak of the great war the South American countries, and the United States, too, to a large extent, were greatly dependent upon Europe in financial, commercial, and transportation matters. Most of the trade of South America was with Europe; her loans were secured from European banks; and there was poor transportation service between South America and the United States. When the war came—with its dislocation of exchanges, stoppage of commerce, and withdrawal of ships from American services—financial and economic chaos confronted these countries. Something had to be done. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, with characteristic foresight, called the First Pan American Financial Conference to meet in Washington in May, 1915, to consider ways in which these countries could be made independent of Europe by the establishment of closer and more stable financial relations between them, and to consider how commerce might be stimulated by the securing of substantial uniformity in commercial law and practice. This conference met, studied the problems which faced the American nations, made recommendations for their prompt solution, and, having in mind the principal reason for the failure of previous Inter American conferences, recommended that there be established a continuing agency which would see that its recommendations were carried out. The

International High Commission (the name "International" was subsequently changed to "Inter American," since the Commission deals only with relations between the American countries, and it will be referred to hereafter as "Inter American") was accordingly created. This Commission is composed of not more than nine representatives from each country. The Minister of Finance (in the United States the Secretary of the Treasury) is *ex officio* chairman. The name given to each country's delegation is "National Section," which will be discussed in more detail later. All of these National Sections constitute the Inter American High Commission.

The program of the Inter American High Commission, as laid down by the First Pan American Financial Conference, embraces: (1) The establishment of a gold standard of value; (2) uniform (a) classification of merchandise, (b) customs regulations, (c) consular certificates and invoices, (d) port charges, (e) laws regarding bills of exchange, commercial paper, and bills of lading, (f) regulations for commercial travelers; (3) the international protection of trade-marks, patents, and copyrights; (4) the establishment of a uniform low rate of postage and the improvement of money-order and parcel-post facilities between the American countries; and (5) the extension of the process of arbitration for the adjustment of commercial disputes.

There is a bill before the Senate of the United States at present, which is a revision of the original act providing for the Inter American High Commission, placing the United States Section on a permanent legislative basis, which succinctly and comprehensively states the objects of the Commission, as follows:

SEC. 2. The United States Section shall co-operate with the other sections of the Inter American High Commission in bringing about between the Republics of North, Central, and South America, and the West Indies, a substantial uniformity in commercial law and practice, and in fiscal and administrative regulations, particularly as concerns bills of exchange, checks, commercial paper, and bills of lading; the classification of merchandise; commercial and vital statistics; customs regulations, consular documents, and port charges; regulations for commercial travelers; legislation concerning trade-marks, patents, and copyrights; rates of postage and charges for mail orders and parcel post; facilities of communication and transportation; the establishment of a standard of value and the stabilization of exchange; and the development of legal procedure for the arbitral settlement of commercial disputes. The United States Section shall not be concerned with the promotion of trade or with matters essentially diplomatic or political in character.

In the limited space at my disposal, it will be impossible for me to give details as to how the Inter American High Commission is carrying out these objects. Suffice it to say that in January, 1920, the Second Pan American Financial Conference met in Washington and it expressed itself as being well pleased with the work of the Inter American High Commission, and recommended its continuance.

It will be interesting to observe the organization and method of operation of the Commission. As I noted above, the Inter American High Commission is a body